

ALYTES

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BATRACHOLOGY

January-April 1989

Volume 8, N° 1

Alytes, 1989-1990, 8 (1): 1-2.

1

Editorial

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The journal *Alytes* was founded at the Paris National Museum of Natural History in February 1982. From November 1982 to November 1989, it was published by the Société Batrachologique de France (S.B.F.), although since March 1984 it has been subtitled "International Journal of Batrachology", and opened, besides those in French, to papers in English.

On 11 November 1988, the General Assembly of the S.B.F. decided the foundation of the ISSCA (International Society for the Study and Conservation of Amphibians), the transfer to this new international society of the journal *Alytes*, and the opening of the latter also to papers in Spanish. Since, however, publication of volume 7 of *Alytes*, due for the year 1988, was late, it was decided to wait until completion of this publication to transfer the journal to the ISSCA. This was done only in November 1989, and volume 8 of the journal will now be published by the ISSCA.

In order to suppress the one-year delay in the publication schedule of *Alytes* inherited from the S.B.F., the ISSCA Board decided that volume 8 of *Alytes* will formally cover both years 1989 and 1990: therefore, at the end of this volume, the journal should have recovered normal dates of publication.

All subscribers who have paid in 1989 for their subscription to volume 8 of *Alytes* have therefore no additional subscription to pay for 1990, and will receive all issues of this volume.



Alytes is therefore starting again on new, truly international, bases. We invite warmly all batrachologists worldwide to submit to us for publication papers in English, French or Spanish dealing with all aspects of the scientific study and conservation of amphibians. Although the journal has until now mostly published papers in the fields of amphibian systematics and biogeography, we want to make it quite clear that its scope is not limited to these topics, but is much wider, including all fields of *amphibian biology* as such (e.g. amphibian ecology, ethology, physiology, karyology, genetics, evolution, developmental biology and embryology, larval biology, conservation biology, etc.), and excluding only experimental works where amphibians are used merely as a "material" but without paying attention to these organisms as such.

The Editorial Board of *Alytes* has been expanded and now includes 13 members from 8 countries. Any paper submitted for publication in *Alytes* will be entrusted to one of these members, who will act as Corresponding Editor for this paper, and send it out for review to two referees at least before making the final decision.

The delay for publication of an accepted paper in *Alytes* is currently of 3 to 6 months after submission, which is much less than in many other international journals of zoology or herpetology. No page charges are requested from authors, but we regret to have to charge the latter for the publication of color photographs.

We invite you all to join the ISSCA and to participate in the life and development of its journal *Alytes*, the first journal of batrachology in the world.